the above figures, it could be seen that, in about 20 years, the whole population would get vaccinated. It was more than 40 years since vaccination was introduced in the State. To examine the figures and to review the work, there was a Commissioner drawing Rs. 500 per mensem and an establishment costing Rs. 54,000 to the Government yearly. The Inspecting officers were getting lazy and the number of cases said to have been inspected by them was also not always correct. The accounts and registers relating to the subject for any one year were destroyed in the succeeding year, evidently because they did not contain accurate information. The Government should bestow their early attention to that branch of the work. The Member then made the following suggestions:—

(1) Vaccination Registers should be permanently preserved.

(2) The Sanitary Commissioner should be required to inspect a certain number of cases every year. The number of cases actually inspected by him should also be noted in the Government Review on the Administration Report of the Department.

(3) The number of vaccinators should be reduced.

The Member next said that the work of the Sanitary subordinates was confined to the 25 Conservancy towns. They did not attend properly either to the general sanitation of the towns or to the preservation of waterways from impurity. Their numbers in towns were very small. Their duty was to advise the people as to how to keep their houses, precincts, food stuffs, etc., properly and free from impurity, but they did nothing of the kind. The Sanitary Overseers were in fact incompetent for such work.

A sum of Rs. 2,000 was set apart every year for medical relief. The medicines had to be supplied to the 25 Conservancy towns. Only a few Sanitary officers were competent to render medical aid. It would be interesting to know what kinds of medicines were bought, to whom they were supplied, what quantity was left unspent, etc. It was not, however, possible to get information on the above points. The Sanitary Inspectors were not properly qualified men. The number of persons treated by the Sanitary officers fell from 1,100 in 1090 to 667 in 1091. The reason was not apparent. A few *thandakars* under the Proverthicars would do the work which the above subordinates were doing.

The next point discussed by the Member was the necessity for investigating into and reporting on public health in rural parts and for advising the people on improving their sanitation, etc. The most competent person to undertake the above work was the Commissioner. But he did not sufficiently tour about in the country and give the necessary advice to the people. No lectures on Sanitary subjects were delivered by him, nor were any leaflets on such subjects published in the Gazette. The Government were spending more than Rs. 75,000 per year on the department with no proportionate benefit to the people. It was not his proposal either to abolish the department or to amalgamate it with the Medical Department. What he would suggest was that the working of the department should be improved so as to make the institution really useful to the people.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(2) Town Improvement Committees.

94. Supply of good drinking water to the Town of Nagercoil.

Mr. A. Suryanarayana Pillai, B. A. (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) said that the supply of good drinking water to the town of Nagercoil was a long-felt want and that, notwithstanding the repeated representations made to the Government on the subject by the citizens of Nagercoil, nothing has been done as yet. The public health of Nagercoil was very poor in spite of its favourable geographical situation, on account of bad drinking water; and, diseases like cholera, typhoid fever and other epidemics were devastating the town year after year. The mortality in the town was great. When compared with the previous years, the mortality at present was less, as the T. I. C. took care to supply good drinking water during the St. Xavier's festival. The T. I. C. were thus able to prevent cholera. As the festival lasted for only 10 days, the T. I. C. were able to spend only a few hundreds of rupees from the Town fund for the supply of good drinking water to that portion of the town.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dewan.—Your Committee is one that has the largest amount of surplus funds. It has more than Rs. 25,000. The Government have recently asked the Committee to suggest measures of public utility to which the unspent balance could be applied.

The Member, continuing, said that a practical solution of the question was to construct two reservoirs with filter-beds, one near the Chettikulam and another near Krishnankoil, where Kodayar water was available and to distribute the water from the reservoirs to the various parts of the town by means of pipes. It was enough to construct the reservoirs with a capacity of three months' supply calculating 7 gallons per head.

Dewan.—The Chief Engineer is apparently of opinion that it is only by drawing water from the Ananthankal that the town of Nagercoil could be efficiently supplied with water. In any case, he says he would make an investigation, if he is allowed two or three lakhs of rupees.

Member.—My proposal would also cost 2 or 3 lakhs of rupees at the most. The town has a reserve fund of nearly Rs. 25,000 and the rest can be raised by loans, if only the Government gave permission.

The Member again pointed out that a sum of Rs. 2,500 was realised by the Committee as house-tax. The inhabitants were already spending some money for the supply of drinking water. The Committee would get at least Rs. 2,500 per mensem from the buildings in the town, if a water-tax were also levied on each house. The working establishment would not cost more than Rs. 1,000 per mensem. That would give a clear balance of Rs. 18,000 per year, and it would be sufficient to meet the interest on even 4½ lakhs of rupees at 4 per cent. The inhabitants of the town would gladly pay the tax.

The P. W. D. had opened two toll-gates near the town limits. The town was rightly entitled to all the proceeds from the tolls after allowing a due share to the Government for the maintenance of the roads. The tolls would bring in Rs. 40,000 per year, two-thirds of which should go to the Town fund. The Member suggested that the tolls near the town should be handed over to the Committee. The receipts from the tolls could be used as a Sinking fund for clearing the loans that the Committee might raise for the supply of drinking water and other useful works. A Sub-Committee of the T. I. C. was trying to devise a small experimental water-supply scheme costing about Rs. 10,000 to supply filtered water by some street fountains in parts of Vadiviswaram and Kottar. The Committee could afford to meet the cost of the scheme. If the proposals of the Committee were sanctioned by the Government and the experimental scheme worked out, it would, in addition to affording relief to that part of the town which was the worst in point of water-supply, also prove a valuable object lesson to the other Committees and the public and enable some data being collected for a comprehensive water-supply scheme. The Member, therefore, prayed that the Government might be pleased to sanction the scheme as soon as it was placed before them by the T. I. C. or even to urge the T. I. C. to work out the scheme.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The scheme under preparation by the Committee will be carefully considered, when it comes up.

95. Desirability of granting to the rate payers of the town of Kuzhithurai the privilege of electing the non-official Members of the local Town Improvement Committee.

Mr. S. S Ramaswami Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Kuzhithurai) said that the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation was introduced in the town at the close of 1088 and a Committee formed at the beginning of 1089, that, besides the President, there were 2 official members and 7 non-official members and that all the non official members were being nominated by the Government. The neighbouring Committees of Padmanabhapuram and Nagercoil were given the power to elect at least 4 out of the 7 non-official members. A non-official member was nominated only at the beginning of the current year, so that, even if the privilege was conferred now, it could not be exercised for about 2½ years. By that time, it was likely that the new Municipal Bill would become law. Out of the seven non-official

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly